Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) held on 11th January, 2003 under the caption 'Opportunities in Defence and Internal Security research & Development' which *inter alia* deliberated upon India as a source of defence components and as a base for development for defence industry.

(b) The response/assurance received from the diaspora has been encouraging in this regard. TOKTEN enabled 650 Scientists & Technologists of Indian origin to visit Indian Institutions during 1980-2001 and rendered benefits to Indian Science & Technology programme. NRIs-PIOs have set up R&D institutions in Delhi, Mumbai, Khadakpur, Kanpur and Bangalore.

The session on 'Opportunities in Defence and Internal Security Research & Development' is linked to a special website inaugurated during the PBD. The deliberations at the session resulted in a number of positive suggestions in respective areas between India and its diaspora.

Permanent venue for SAARC

261. SHRI R.R GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lanka has proposed that Kathmandu be made a permanent venue for SAARC Summits;

(b) whether this proposal has Government's acceptance;

(c) whether mere holding of summit meetings would make all countries comply with the agreements arrived at; and

(d) whether Government would like to place greater emphasis on bilateral arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) No. While all SAARC decisions are based on unanimity there is no provision to enforce'compliance.

(d) Bilateral and regional arrangements for co-operation are complimentary to each other, and Government of India would pursue either or both in the national interest.